



**WORCESTER**  
S T A T E  
**UNIVERSITY**

**Finding Aid for  
Worcester State University  
Course Catalogs and Related Materials**

Created by Ross Griffiths, April 18, 2017

Updated September 21, 2023

Archives and Special Collections  
Worcester State University Library

Worcester State University  
486 Chandler Street  
Worcester, MA 01602



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## COLLECTION OVERVIEW

<b>Call Number</b>	WSU.0001
<b>Repository</b>	Archives and Special Collections, Worcester State University (Worcester, Massachusetts)
<b>Location</b>	Learning Resource Center, L-328A
<b>Title</b>	Worcester State University Course Catalogs
<b>Date range</b>	1874-2023
<b>Extent</b>	6 linear feet (12 boxes)
<b>Creator(s)</b>	Worcester State University
<b>Language (s)</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	Course catalogs for undergraduate, graduate, summer, extension, and special courses for Worcester State University from its opening in 1874 to the present. Includes a small number of course schedules and other related materials.

## ACCESS AND USE INFORMATION

<b>Physical access</b>	Materials are available for use only in the Archives Reading room (L-328A). Materials are fragile and must be handled with care. Users must handle materials with clean hands. Gloves are available for handling deteriorated leather bindings.
<b>Copyright and ownership</b>	Researchers are responsible to obtain appropriate permissions before republishing materials under copyright.
<b>Citation format</b>	[item title, year] Worcester State University Course Catalogs and Related Materials Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Worcester State University.

## ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING INFORMATION

<b>Accession</b>	Pre.2015.0001; Pre.2015.0002; Pre.2015.0003;
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<b>number(s)</b>	Pre.2015.0004; Pre.2015.0016
<b>Provenance</b>	The bulk of materials were deposited in the Archives by unknown person(s) prior to 2015. Additional accruals have been added as they became available.
<b>Processing Information</b>	In 2015, the collection was processed by Bridgette Woodall, Project Archivist, into four separate collections with corresponding finding aids. Historical background information was compiled as well as descriptive information about each collection/series. In 2017 an Inventory of unprocessed and related materials completed and collection was reprocessed by Ross Griffiths, Archivist, as one single collection with four series. In 2019, the collection was digitized by the Digital Commonwealth and, at that time, bound items were disbound and duplicate items were removed from the collection.
<b>Biographical and historical information</b>	Opened in 1874, the State Normal School at Worcester was the 5 <sup>th</sup> state-funded normal school (teacher training college) in Massachusetts. In 1932, the name was changed to Worcester State Teachers College. Continued development of liberal arts curriculum led to another name change in 1961 to the State College at Worcester, later, Worcester State College. In 2010, the school achieved university status along with all other Massachusetts state colleges and became Worcester State University. See appendices for more detailed historical information and a chronology.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The course catalogs of Worcester State University are institutional publications that contain general information relating to the educational instruction, degree programs, services and amenities, the physical plant, and administration. Catalogs are generally published annually though some editions include single semesters or multiple years. The collection encompasses the entire institutional history of WSU and traces its development from a 19<sup>th</sup> century teacher training school to a 21<sup>st</sup> century liberal arts university. Included in the collection are course schedules as well as course descriptions.



## **ARRANGEMENT**

This collection is arranged in six series

### **Series I**

#### **Course Catalogs for the State Normal School at Worcester, 1874-1931**

Contents of the catalogs primarily include an academic calendar; an historical synopsis of the school; admission and graduation requirements; descriptions of the school buildings and grounds; descriptions of the courses of study and apprenticeships; matriculation statistics; school governance and regulations; health requirements; financial information noting room and board, railroad fare, and other incidentals; financial aid assistance; announcements regarding class reunions, events, special notices; and amenities available in the surrounding community. Directory listings include members of the State Board of Education; State Board of Visitors; faculty and staff; and special lecturers as well as undergraduate students, post-graduate students, and alumni(ae); as well as lists of class officers, class gifts, donor contributions, and anniversary address speakers. Reports of the State Board of Visitors, commencement exercise programs, sample entrance examination questions, and indices are also present. Black and white photographic plates and/or etchings, found throughout the catalogs, highlight the school buildings including the original school building grounds; classrooms; instructors and pupils; and events.

Note: All listings relating to students and alumni(ae) are alphabetical by surname and note the individual's place of current residence at time of admission or graduation. Changes of address or in name are noted beneath the alphabetical entry for each individual.

### **Series II**

#### **Course Catalogs for the Worcester State Teachers College, 1932-1960**

Contents of the catalogs primarily include an academic calendar; an historical synopsis of the college; admission and graduation requirements; descriptions of the school buildings and grounds; descriptions of the courses of study and teaching practicums (includes Veterans education starting with the 1952-1954 catalog); school governance and regulations; health requirements; financial information noting tuition and fees; employment assistance, and other incidentals; financial aid assistance, scholarships and loans;



information regarding student organizations, lectures; and amenities in the surrounding community. A directory includes members of the Department of Education, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Graduates' Association, and other committees as well as listings for faculty and staff and students; Black and white photographic plates show school buildings; grounds; classrooms; instructors and students, and events. Also includes related material such as clippings, inserts, and announcements for curriculum changes.

Note: All listings relating to students and alumni(ae) are alphabetical by surname and note the individual's place of current residence at time of admission or graduation; starting with the 1943-1944 catalog, student listings are no longer published. Missing volumes will be added if and when they become available.

### **Series III**

#### **Course Catalogs for Worcester State College, 1961-2010**

Contents of the catalogs primarily include a Table of Contents; an academic calendar; an historical synopsis of the college; admission and graduation requirements; curricula and course descriptions, expenses and fees; scholarships and other financial aid; a Veterans education notice; and black and white reproduction photographs. Listings for the members and officers of the Department of Education, the State Board of Education, Board of Trustees, and other committees are also included as well as listings for faculty and staff and student activities with brief descriptions. A directional road map and alphabetized index (starting 1967) can be found at the end of each catalog. Rules for off-campus boarding begin appearing in the 1967 catalog. Also includes related material including inserts, and announcements for curriculum changes. Includes some course schedules. One volume is missing from this series: 1963-1964.

### **Series IV**

#### **Course Catalogs for Worcester State University, 2011-2023**

Contents of the catalogs primarily include accreditation information; academic calendars; academic policies and procedures; admission and graduation requirements; a campus map and driving directions; a campus phone and email directory; curricula, degree requirements, and course descriptions (listed alphabetically by department); Financial information regarding tuition, fees, and aid. Also



included is information regarding campus resources including health and counseling, recreation, and services for residential life. Directory listings include administration, faculty, professors emeriti, and former presidents/principals of the college.

**Series V            Course Schedules, 1974-2001**

Includes information about days, times, and locations of courses as well as general campus information.

**Series VI            Course Information, 1971, n.d.**

Includes information about the Certificate Program in Accounting, and the Post-Baccalaureate Program in Premedical/Dental.

**SUBJECT TERMS**    Terms below correspond to Library of Congress subject terms.

**People**            Ashley, Janelle C.  
Aspinwall, William B. (William Billings) 1874-  
Orze, Joseph John. 1932-

**Organizations**    State Normal School at Worcester (Worcester, Mass)  
Worcester State Teachers College  
Worcester State College  
Worcester State University

**Places**            Worcester (Mass)

**General**            Course Catalogs, College  
Massachusetts State College System  
Normal Schools  
Teachers Colleges—Massachusetts—History  
Worcester (Mass)—History

**RELATED COLLECTIONS**

<b>Call number</b>	<b>Title</b>
WSU.0002	Worcester State University Yearbooks
WSU.0005	Worcester State University Commencement Programs

**DESCRIPTIVE INVENTORY**



**Series I      Worcester Normal School Course Catalogs, 1874-1931**

1.2	General Catalog, 1874-1875
1.3	General Catalog, 1875
1.4	General Catalog, 1876
1.5	General Catalog, 1877
1.6	General Catalog, 1878
1.7	General Catalog, 1879
1.8	General Catalog, 1880
1.9	General Catalog, 1881
1.10	General Catalog, 1882
1.11	General Catalog, 1883
1.12	General Catalog, 1884
1.13	General Catalog, 1885
1.14	General Catalog, 1886
1.15	General Catalog, 1887
1.16	General Catalog, 1888
1.17	General Catalog, 1889
1.18	General Catalog, 1890
1.19	General Catalog, 1891
1.20	General Catalog, 1892
1.21	General Catalog, 1893
1.22	General Catalog, 1894
1.23	General Catalog, 1895
1.24	General Catalog, 1896
1.25	General Catalog, 1897
1.26	General Catalog , 1898
1.27	General Catalog, 1899
2.1	General Catalog, 1900
2.2	General Catalog, 1901
2.3	General Catalog, 1902
2.4	General Catalog, 1903
2.5	General Catalog, 1904
2.6	General Catalog, 1905
2.7	General Catalog, 1906
2.8	General Catalog, 1907
2.9	General Catalog, 1908
2.10	General Catalog, 1909
2.11	General Catalog, 1910
2.12	General Catalog, 1911
2.13	General Catalog, 1912
2.14	General Catalog, 1913
2.15	General Catalog, 1914
3.1	General Catalog, 1915
3.2	General Catalog, 1916
3.3	General Catalog, 1917-1918
3.4	General Catalog, 1919-1920
3.5	General Catalogs, 1921-1922



- 3.6 General Catalogs, 1923-1924
- 3.7 General Catalog, 1925-1926
- 3.8 General Catalog, 1927-1928
- 3.9 General Catalog, 1928-1929
- 3.10 General Catalog, 1930-1931
- 1.1 Normal School Prospectus, 1874

**Series II Worcester State Teachers College Course Catalogs, 1932-1960**

- 3.25 Extension Catalog, Spring 1956
- 3.26 Extension Catalog, Summer 1956
- 3.27 Extension Catalog, Fall 1956
- 3.29 Extension Catalog, Summer 1958
- 3.31 Extension Catalog, Summer 1960
- 3.11 General Catalog, 1932-1933
- 3.12 General Catalog, 1935-1936
- 3.13 General Catalog, 1937-1938
- 3.14 General Catalog, 1940-1941
- 3.15 General Catalog, 1941-1942
- 3.16 General Catalog, 1942-1943
- 3.17 General Catalog, 1943-1944
- 3.18 General Catalog, 1944-1945
- 3.19 General Catalog, 1945-1947
- 3.20 General Catalog, 1947-1949
- 3.21 General Catalog, 1950-1952
- 3.22 General Catalog, 1952-1954
- 3.23 General Catalogs, 1954-1956
- 3.24 General Catalog, 1955-1956
- 3.28 General Catalog, 1957-1958
- 3.30 General Catalog, 1959-1960

**Series III Course Catalogs for Worcester State College, 1961-2011**

- 3.34 Continuing Studies, Spring 1962
- 3.35 Continuing Studies, Fall 1962
- 3.36 Continuing Studies, Spring 1960
- 3.37 Continuing Studies, Fall 1963
- 3.39 Continuing Studies, Spring 1964
- 3.40 Continuing Studies, Summer 1964
- 3.41 Continuing Studies, Fall 1964
- 3.42 Continuing Studies, Spring 1965
- 3.43 Continuing Studies, Summer 1965
- 3.44 Continuing Studies, Fall 1965
- 4.1 Continuing Studies, Spring 1966
- 4.2 Continuing Studies, 1966-1967
- 4.4 Continuing Studies, Summer 1967
- 4.5 Continuing Studies, Fall 1967
- 4.6 Continuing Studies, Spring 1968
- 4.7 Continuing Studies, Summer 1968



4.9	Continuing Studies, Fall 1968
4.10	Continuing Studies, Spring 1969
4.11	Continuing Studies, Summer 1969
4.13	Continuing Studies, Fall 1969
4.14	Continuing Studies, Summer 1970
4.16	Continuing and Graduate, Spring 1971
4.18	Continuing and Graduate, Spring 1972
4.19	Continuing and Graduate, Summer 1972
4.21	Continuing Studies, Fall 1973
4.23	Continuing and Graduate, Spring 1974
4.24	Continuing and Graduate, Summer 1974
7.4	Course Catalog, 1999-2000
7.5	Course Catalog, 2000-2001
7.7	Course Catalog, 2001-2002
7.8	Course Catalog, 2002-2003
7.5	Course Catalog: Distance Learning, 2000
3.33	Extension Catalog, 1961
3.32	General Catalog, 1961-1963
3.38	General Catalog, 1964-1966
4.3	General Catalog, 1967-1969
4.8	General Catalog, 1968-1969
4.12	General Catalog, 1969-1970
4.15	General Catalog, 1970-1971
4.17	General Catalog, 1971-1972
4.20	General Catalog, 1972-1973
4.22	General Catalog, 1973-1974
5.11	General Catalog, 1982-1984
5.12	General Catalog, 1984-1986
6.1	General Catalog, 1986-1988
6.2	General Catalog, 1988-1989
6.3	General Catalog, 1989-1990
6.4	General Catalog, 1990-1991
6.5	General Catalog, 1991-1992
6.6	General Catalog, 1992-1993
6.7	General Catalog, 1993-1994
6.8	General Catalog, 1994-1995
6.9	General Catalog, 1995-1996
7.1	General Catalog, 1996-1997
7.2	General Catalog, 1997-1998
7.3	General Catalog, 1998-1999
5.7	Graduate, 1979-1981
7.10	Graduate, 2003-2004
7.6	Graduate and Continuing, 2001
5.10	Graduate and Continuing, 1981-1982 (addendum)
4.25	Graduate and Special, Fall 1974
4.27	Graduate and Special, 1975-1976
4.28	Graduate and Special, Spring 1975



5.2	Graduate and Special, 1976-1977
5.3	Graduate and Special, Summer 1977
5.5	Graduate and Special, 1977-1978
4.26	Undergraduate, 1975-1976
5.1	Undergraduate, 1976-1977
5.4	Undergraduate, 1977-1978
5.6	Undergraduate, 1978-1980
5.8	Undergraduate, 1980-1981
5.9	Undergraduate, 1981-1982
6.10	Summer Session, 1996
7.9	Undergraduate, 2003-2004
8.1	Undergraduate, 2004-2005
8.2	Undergraduate, 2005-2006
8.3	Undergraduate, 2006-2007
8.4	Undergraduate, 2007-2008
8.5	Undergraduate, 2008-2009
8.6	Undergraduate, 2009-2010
8.7	Undergraduate, 2010-2011

**Series IV      Course Catalogs for Worcester State University, 2011-2023**

11.24	Graduate, 2012-2013
8.8	Undergraduate, 2011-2012
9.1	Undergraduate, 2012-2013
9.5	Undergraduate, 2013-2014
9.3	Undergraduate, 2014-2015
9.4	Undergraduate, 2015-2016
9.5	Undergraduate, 2016-2017
10.1	Undergraduate, 2017-2018
10.2	Undergraduate, 2018-2019
10.3	Undergraduate, 2019-2020
10.4	Undergraduate, 2020-2021
10.5	Undergraduate, 2021-2022
11.23	Undergraduate, 2022-2023
8.9	Undergraduate and Continuing, n.d.

**Series V      Course Schedules, 1971-2004**

11.1	Schedules, 1971-1972
11.2	Schedules, 1972-1973
11.3	Schedules, Spring 1973
11.4	Schedules, Fall 1973
11.5	Schedules, Spring 1974
11.6	Schedules, Spring 1980
11.7	Schedules, Spring 1982
11.8	Schedules, Fall 1983
11.9	Schedules, Spring, 1984
11.10	Schedules, Spring 1985
11.11	Schedules, Fall 1986



12.4	Schedules, Fall 1987
11.14	Schedules, Fall 1996
11.15	Schedules, Spring 1997
13.01	Schedules, Spring 1990
13.02	Schedules, Spring (evening and graduate), 1990
13.03	Schedules, Summer 1990
13.04	Schedules, Fall (day) 1990
13.05	Schedules, Fall (evening) 1990
13.06	Schedules, Spring (day) 1991
13.07	Schedules, Spring (evening), 1991
13.08	Schedules, Summer, 1991
13.09	Schedules, Fall 1991
13.10	Schedules, Spring 1993
13.11	Schedules, Summer 1993
11.17	Schedules, Fall 1999
11.18	Schedules, Spring 2000
11.21	Schedules, Spring 2004
12.5	Schedules, Fall 2004
11.22	Schedules, 2007
11.20	Schedules, Graduate and Continuing, Fall 2001
11.13	Schedules, Undergraduate, Fall 1994
11.16	Schedules, Undergraduate, Spring 1997
11.19	Schedules, Undergraduate, Fall 2000
11.12	Schedules, Undergraduate and Continuing, Fall 1994
<b>Series VI</b>	<b>Course Information, n.d.</b>
12.1	Certificate Program, Accounting, n.d.,
12.3	Continuing Studies, 1971
12.2	Post-Baccalaureate Program, Premedical/Dental, n.d.

## APPENDIX I\*



## State Normal School at Worcester, historical background

### DEFINITION:

"A normal school is a school created to train high school graduates to be teachers. Its purpose is to establish teaching standards or norms, hence its name. Most such schools are now called teachers' colleges."\*\*

The following excerpts, taken from the 1882 course catalog, provide a historical context for the founding of the Massachusetts State Normal School at Worcester (Worcester, Mass.):\*\*\*

*The following extract from the Thirty-seventh Annual Report (1872-73) of the Board of Education gives in outline a history of the establishment of this school: --*

*By the terms of a Resolve which went into effect on the twenty-fifth day of June, 1871, the Board of Education were authorized and required to establish a State Normal School in the city of Worcester; and the Trustees of the Worcester Lunatic Hospital were authorized and required to convey to the Board of Education and its successors a tract of land of not more than five acres, to be located by the Governor and Council, within certain limits fixed in the Resolve. An appropriation of sixty thousand dollars was made upon condition that the city of Worcester should pay to the Board of Education for the purposes named in the Resolve the sum of fifteen thousand dollars. This condition was promptly complied with. The tract was located by the Governor and Council Sept. 2, 1871; and on the nineteenth day of September, 1871, the conveyance was made by the Trustees of the Hospital to the Board of Education and its successors in trust as directed.*

*The tract of land located is upon Hospital Hill in Hospital Grove (formerly so called), within a short distance from the new Union Depot now in process of erection, -- a point at which, when the railroad arrangements now in progress shall be completed, pupils residing on the line of either of the roads leading into the city of Worcester can arrive in season for the commencement of school each day, and take the cars to return after the school exercises are finished.'*

*The building is of stone, capacious, conveniently arranged in every detail, massive and handsome in external appearance. The eminence upon which it stands commands a view of city, village, and country, for many miles around.*

*The exercises of dedication took place on Friday, Sept. 11, 1874; and on the following Tuesday (Sept. 15) the school was opened to pupils."*

*The Board of Education, by a vote passed May 6, 1880, stated the design of the school, and the course of studies for the State Normal Schools, as follows: --*

*The design of the Normal School is strictly professional; that is, to prepare in the best possible manner the pupils for the work of organizing, governing, and teaching the public schools of the Commonwealth.*

*To this end there must be the most thorough knowledge, first, of the branches of*



*learning required to be taught in the schools; second, of the best methods of teaching those branches; and third, of right mental training.*

Sources: Material within WSU.0001

\*Historical background compiled in 2015 by Bridgette Woodall, Project Archivist.

\*\*Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. "Normal school." Last modified October 09, 2015.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normal\\_school](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normal_school;).;

\*\*Massachusetts State Normal School at Worcester. *Catalogue and Circular, Eighth Year, 1882* (Boston: Rand, Avery, and Company, 1882), 10-11. Historical background compiled by Bridgette Woodall, Project Archivist.

## **APPENDIX II WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY CHRONOLOGY**



1871: June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Massachusetts State Normal School at Worcester is established by legislative resolve. In September, the Governor and Council locate a tract of land for the school on Hospital Hill. The Worcester Lunatic Hospital conveys the tract of land to the Board of Education

1874: September 11<sup>th</sup>, dedication of the original campus. September 15<sup>th</sup>, first students admitted.

1880: Apprenticeship for students in training is adopted by the Superintendent of Schools and the School Committee of Worcester

1911: School of Observation is started Bachelor of Science in Education is introduced

1929: A new site for the school is secured at the junction of May and Chandler Streets, known as Lincoln Farm). Erection of a new building is approved by state legislative resolve

1932: In January, classes begin in the new building, now known as the Shaughnessy Building. In April, the state legislature approved a name change to Worcester State Teachers College. About 150 students are enrolled.

1952: The first graduate degree is offered: a Masters of Science in Education.

1958: The 2<sup>nd</sup> building on campus opens housing a gymnasium, classrooms, and the library.

1963: The State Legislature approves the new name "Worcester State College". Enrollment surpasses 1000 students.

1965: The Science building (now Sullivan Hall) opens becoming the campus' 3<sup>rd</sup> building.

1971: The Learning Resource Center opens. This building includes the library, classrooms and offices. Worcester State enrollment is nearly 3000 students.

1972: Chandler Village resident halls open. Designed with input from students, these are the first residence halls built on the current campus.

1974: B.S. Degrees in Business and Nursing are introduced. The Graduate School is created.

1978: The Student Center opens.

1980s: M.S in Speech-Language Pathology and a B.S. in Occupational Therapy are introduced.

1990: Dowden Hall Residence Hall opens.

2000: The Ghosh Science Center Opens.

2004: Wasylean Hall opens.

2010: By an act of the State Legislature, all Massachusetts State Colleges, including Worcester State, gain university status.

2013: Sheehan Hall opens.

2016: The Wellness Center opens on the site of the 1957 gymnasium and classroom building.

### APPENDIX III WORCESTER STATE PRINCIPALS/PRESIDENTS



E. Harlow Russell (1874-1909)  
Francis Ransom Lane (1909-1912)  
William B. Aspinwall (1912-1940)  
Clinton Carpenter (1940-1946)  
Eugene A. Sullivan (1946-1970)  
Robert Leestamper (1970-1975)  
Joseph J. Orze (1975-1982)  
Phillip D. Vario (1982-1991)  
Kaylan Ghosh (1992-2002)  
Janelle C. Ashley (2002-2011)  
Barry Maloney (2011-present)